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ABSTRACT

"Animal Farm" is a political allegory of the USSR written in the form of a fable. Its stinging moral warning against the abuse of power is demonstrated in this casebook through a wide variety of historical, political, and literary documents that are directly applicable to George Orwell's novel. Included in the casebook are passages from the Soviet press; excerpts from personal memoirs and correspondence; original translations from Russian and East German sources that show the meaning of "Animal Farm" for those nations' readers; and historical and political sources on Marxism, the Russian revolution, the Cold War, and Glasnost. Each document is preceded by an explanatory introduction, and each casebook chapter concludes with suggested topics for written and oral exploration. Chapters in the casebook are: Introduction; Literary Analysis of "Animal Farm" (James Aune); Historical Context: "Basic Tenets of Marxism" (William E. Shanahan, III); "The Russian Revolution and Josef Stalin" (Jonathan Rose); Biographical Context: "George Orwell and the Road to 'Animal Farm'" (Denise Weeks); "'Animal Farm' and the Early Cold War" (John Rodden); The 1980s and 1990s: "Soviet Glasnost, Third World Communism, and Orwell" (John Rodden); "'Animal Farm' Themes in Light of Late-Twentieth-Century Public Issues" by William E. Shanahan, III; and Glossary. (NKA)

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